



State of Alaska

**Department of
Health and
Social Services**

**Division of
Juvenile Justice**

**Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2003**

Frank H. Murkowski, Governor

Joel Gilbertson, Commissioner

Patty Ware, Director



Patty Ware, Director

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to present you with this annual report on the accomplishments and challenges of the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2003.

As the following pages demonstrate, this year has been marked by a rigorous analysis of the way we do our work within the Division of Juvenile Justice, with the goal of ensuring effective and efficient service delivery while adhering to the agency mission of offender accountability, community protection and competency development. The process has been both arduous and fruitful. The Division has a significant number of strengths, primary among them the professional and dedicated juvenile probation officers, facility youth counselors and administrative staff who work diligently each day with youths, their families, victims, public and private agencies and citizen stakeholders to reduce juvenile crime and improve the state's juvenile justice system. And yet, our internal analysis also indicated areas of needed improvement, and these were incorporated into a system improvement plan that was making steady progress by the early months of FY 2004.

It has been difficult to summarize all of our agency's internal review and plan development activities in a single report. I am so proud of the work done by our employees to improve community safety and increase the skills of youths so that they can succeed, and believe this work to be so important, that we could have filled several volumes with stories about their work on the front lines of juvenile justice. Instead, we have tried to provide a solid overview that, we hope, will encourage every reader to take a more active role in Alaska's management of juvenile delinquency.

Just as Alaska's juvenile offenders benefit from their neighbors taking an active, supportive interest in them, so also is the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice strengthened by the involvement of people outside our Division who, like us, are dedicated to helping Alaskan youths succeed.

The mission of the Division of Juvenile Justice is to hold juvenile offenders accountable for their behavior, promote the safety and restoration of victims and communities, and assist offenders and their families in developing skills to prevent crime.

Sincerely,

Patty Ware
Director

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In Fiscal Year 2003 the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Juvenile Justice took the initial steps of a comprehensive effort to improve its management of juvenile offenders. This effort has been launched for the following straightforward reasons:

- The Division has been increasingly challenged in its ability to respond to serious crimes by youths on a timely basis, and to supervise young offenders adequately.
- Youths who commit minor crimes receive minimal to no attention due to insufficient probation resources in both urban and rural areas of the state.
- Alaska detains a high percentage of its juvenile population. The construction of new juvenile facilities and the addition of capacity to existing facilities in the past several years has not alleviated Alaska's high detention rate; in fact, some youth facilities continued to contend with severe overcrowding in FY 03.
- Community-based services that can provide alternatives to detention and enable Division staff to respond more promptly and appropriately to juvenile crime have been underdeveloped or underutilized.
- Division field staff are so overwhelmed with the challenge of addressing public safety concerns that the two other equally important facets of our mission—restoration of victims and competency development for offenders—have received minimal to no attention.

The Division has conducted an extensive, critical analysis of its systems and methods. Input has been sought from state-level and national juvenile justice professionals and stakeholders to determine the best way to address these concerns. This work has resulted in a strategy for system improvement that has four main components:

- 1) To develop evidence-based, data-driven strategies to ensure the most effective use of secure detention facilities.
- 2) To develop evidence-based, data-driven strategies to ensure the most effective use of institutional treatment units.
- 3) To develop adequate support for our juvenile probation officers — our front-line workers in the fight against juvenile crime — and community-based partners to provide effective alternatives to secure detention while also maintaining community safety.
- 4) To communicate openly with partner entities in the legal community, law enforcement, education, child protection, and others to ensure that these reforms are well understood and will have a positive impact.

The work needed to realize these goals was well underway by the end of FY 03. We believe that our success will result in a more balanced juvenile justice system — one that uses resources more effectively and efficiently, and ultimately results in better decisions, treatment, and outcomes for Alaska's delinquent youth, their victims, families, and communities.



Division of Juvenile Justice Service Delivery System

All Delinquency Referrals

Preadjudicatory Detention Screening

Detention Continuum: Home Detention, Community Supervision,
Electronic Monitoring, Non-secure Shelter, Secure Detention

Intake Investigation

Petition

Informal Probation

Adjusted

Formal Court Proceedings

Adjudicated

Held in
Abeyance
Probation
Services

Formal
Diversion
Probation
Services

Waived to Adult Court,
Withdrawn, Dismissed

Institution

Formal Probation, Aftercare, Restitution, etc.

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*Chairi Sims, Youth Counselor,
McLaughlin Youth Center,
Anchorage*

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FISCAL YEAR 2003 ANNUAL REPORT



*Kym Weil,
Juvenile Probation Officer,
Nome*



*Bob Froehle, Superintendent,
Nome Youth Facility*

It is the kind of dilemma that Kym Weil faces far too often. Weil, a juvenile probation officer, arrives at her office at the Nome Youth Facility and receives a phone call from an Alaska State trooper. The trooper has been summoned to a remote village on the Seward Peninsula on a report that a 15-year-old girl has stabbed her boyfriend during the night. The trooper wants to know if Kym would like the girl escorted to the Nome Youth Facility if his investigation demonstrates that the report is accurate. The trooper adds that he's also concluded an investigation on a 16-year-old boy from the same village and will be charging him with two counts of burglary and one count of criminal mischief. Should this boy be escorted to the Nome facility as well?

Kym takes down the names of the two youths and checks them for previous delinquency records in JOMIS, the Division's juvenile offender database. She finds that the girl has no previous record, but the boy has a history of law-breaking behavior. She steps out of her office and asks the facility superintendent, Bob Froehle, whether the facility can accommodate an additional two youths for at least a night's stay at the facility while they await their court appearances. Bob informs her that the six-bed facility held ten youths last night, none of whom are slated for release today. Moreover, tensions in the facility are high because of the overcrowding. Kym quickly consults with her fellow juvenile probation officers and the facility staff to look for any alternative placements for the youths currently crowding the facility.

"We look at our situation and ask: Is there an alternative placement in Nome that we can take advantage of for one of these kids? If a youth is already scheduled to go to a residential program next week, can they go now? Is there a relative who can take a youth back today instead of tomorrow? Can the other professionals involved in a youth's case—social workers or counselors—think of anything?

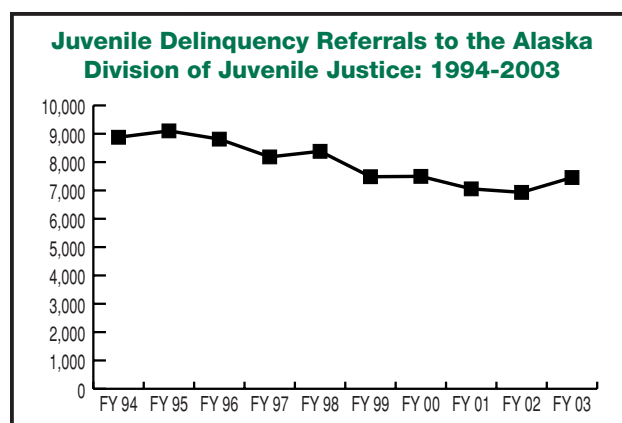
"We do this type of review and search for less restrictive alternatives on an ongoing basis as part of our commitment to ensuring that locked detention is used only when necessary. We are very aware of the need for us to protect the community while also ensuring that we use our resources efficiently," Kym notes.

When the trooper calls back he confirms that he is charging the girl with a felony for the stabbing and is ready to escort her and the 16-year-old boy to Nome. This is where Kym faces her dilemma: the Nome Youth Facility is already overcrowded and she is unable to find any alternative placements for any of the youth. Should she admit two more, bringing the facility's population to double its intended capacity? Should she tell the trooper to bring the girl — who has committed the more serious offense — but to leave the boy at home, even though he's obviously a habitual law-breaker? Or should she arrange early releases for some youths already in detention, even though she can't name a single one that is appropriate for a less restrictive setting due to the level of risk that would be posed to the community at this time?

Staff of the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice face dilemmas like these every day. Juvenile probation officers must determine which offenses will go un-addressed because they only have the resources to respond to the most serious crimes. Youth facility employees must contend with youth who have committed serious offenses and have serious emotional and behavioral needs, often in overcrowded conditions. Managers are challenged in their ability to adequately oversee and review the work being done by their staff because they often are busy performing direct service work themselves. These difficulties are encountered around Alaska, in communities large and small, urban and rural. They have immediate repercussions for our partners in the juvenile justice system — law enforcement officers, district attorneys, victim's advocates, and judges — and ultimately translate into serious challenges for educators, child protection workers, and anyone who cares about positive youth development. Ultimately, these challenges have impacts on the future of our state and the desirability of Alaska as a place to live and raise children.

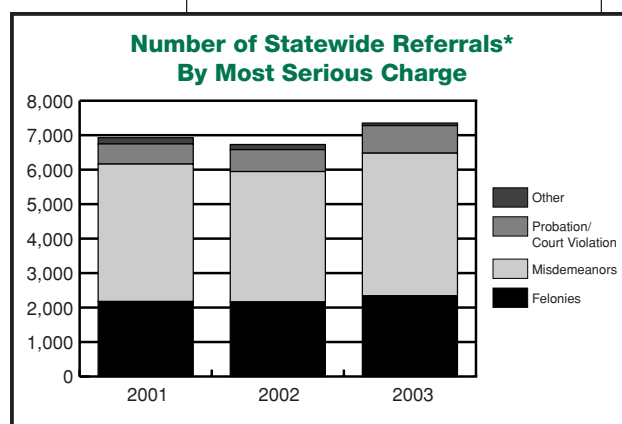
These serious concerns would not be resolved if we were to continue to conduct our business as usual; in fact, they would probably worsen, given that Alaska has one of the fastest-growing juvenile populations in the country.¹ Therefore, beginning in FY 02 and continuing throughout this fiscal year, the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice has conducted a dialogue between its front line workers, management, and partner entities to discuss concerns, weigh the agency's effectiveness, and to lay the groundwork for statewide systemic improvement.

We began by acknowledging the agency's strengths. Ever since its creation in July 1999, the Division has dedicated itself to organizational excellence in a variety of ways. The Division adopted a mission statement based on the statutorily mandated responsibility to act as a *restorative* — as opposed to a punitive or retributive — justice agency that would work to balance services for communities and victims as well as those for offenders and their families. The Division established a formal plan to emphasize values of effectiveness, diversity, communication, and collaboration. Several exciting and vital initiatives and projects have been successfully launched and completed thanks to these foundation-building efforts, from weekly teleconferences between senior managers to the implementation of a new, state-of-the-art Juvenile Offender Management Information System (JOMIS) that is vastly improving our agency's ability to manage juvenile records and statewide statistical information. None of these efforts would have been possible without staff at all levels who are professional, compassionate, and dedicated to the success of Alaska's youth. Objective evidence of this was once again provided by the American Correctional Association, which — as in years past — gave all of Alaska's combined juvenile detention and treatment facilities consistently high marks during re-accreditation audits in FY 03.



Above: In FY 03, after several years of steady declines, the number of referrals of youth into Alaska's juvenile justice system increased 6% over the past two years (from 7,056 in FY 01 to 7,468 in FY 03).

Below: The largest increase has been in the number of serious felony charges as opposed to misdemeanors, probation violations, and other crimes.



* A referral is defined as a report from law enforcement officers. Multiple charges may be filed on a single referral.

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¹ The percentage of the population under 17 years of age in Alaska is expected to increase by 27% between 1995 and 2015 (U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention).



*Dan Domeier,
Youth Counselor,
Mat-Su Youth Facility*

Indeed, without confidence in these strengths Division staff would have found it far more difficult to conduct a critical analysis of their work and to openly review their procedures and methods. Our review confirmed what was long suspected, given experiences like Officer Weil's: that in spite of continued dedication and professionalism, many aspects of DJJ's mission have been surrendered because Division staff have the resources only to respond to the most pressing needs. Specifically:

- **Serious crimes committed by youths often are not addressed in a timely manner.** In some regions of Alaska, six months may pass before a juvenile probation officer is able to respond to a referral for a felony property offense. Two months may pass before a juvenile probation officer is able to respond to a felony crime against a person.
- **Serious young offenders have not been supervised as closely as needed to keep them from offending again.** Sometimes probation officers are unable to provide appropriate attention to referrals that warrant supervision and monitoring due to the need to focus on the extremely serious cases for which the juvenile offender requires formal court processing immediately.
- **Minor crimes often are not addressed on either a timely or consistent basis.** Virtually all of our juvenile probation officers face the dilemma of having to sacrifice attention to minor offenses in order to deal with more serious problems.
- **Youths who commit minor crimes are receiving minimal attention due to insufficient resources in both urban and rural areas across the state.** Without consistent and sufficient responses from the juvenile justice system, youths who commit minor crimes don't sense any consequences to law-breaking behavior — leaving them free to commit more — and increasingly serious — crimes.

These concerns have not only been limited to the Division's ability to manage youth at the front end the juvenile justice system, but also in the way Alaska manages youths referred to the Division's most intensive and costly resource: secure youth facilities. In 1997, when the Department of Health and Social Services developed its first Master Plan for its juvenile facilities, we learned that Alaska was 37th in the nation in its number of serious juvenile offenders but ranked second among all states both in the percentage of juveniles it commits to secure facilities and in length of time they are committed to those facilities.

The Master Plan for Youth Facilities called for development of effective community-based alternatives to locked confinement to help the state avoid an ongoing reliance on facilities, but these alternatives have not been developed. Moreover, the percentage of youth committed to secure facilities — whether for short-term detention while they await an outcome related to their offense, or for long-term institutionalization after they've been adjudicated (found guilty) — has undoubtedly risen, given that the state has added dozens of new secure beds through construction of new facilities or expansion of existing ones. In spite of the increase in the number of new beds, some facilities con-

tinue to experience consistent and dangerous levels of overcrowding. The juvenile justice system has not addressed the needs of the population through an approach resulting in a full continuum of services. Thus there continues to be a strong need for a range of community based alternatives to secure institutionalization, both pre and post-adjudication.

The need to prioritize and address critical public safety concerns like these are making so many demands on Division staff that the two other equally important facets of our mission — restoration of victims and competency development for offenders — have been shortchanged:

- **Services to victims of juvenile crimes are minimal to non-existent.** The Division does not have staff in any of its offices solely devoted to providing assistance, referrals, and services to those impacted by juvenile crime. As a result, line staff must add this work to their list of competing demands, where it simply does not rise to the level of immediate, critical concerns that must be addressed.
- **Youths entering the juvenile justice system often are not receiving the assistance that will provide them with alternatives to crime.** Juvenile offenders increasingly have lengthy histories of addiction, mental illness, sexual abuse, and neglect — as well as a lack of applied living and working skills. The levels of need and complexity of these youth require more time, expertise, and accompanying services than are available because of the demands on staff time. As a result, referrals to community support agencies that can provide positive alternatives to offenders, their families, and those impacted by crime are delayed or not made.

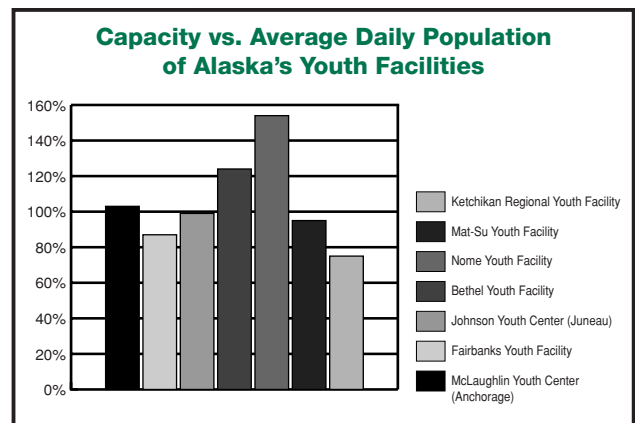
Clearly, the Division has been in need of changes that would enable staff to manage juvenile delinquency referrals more effectively and efficiently; that would enable them to provide more effective supervision of youth whether they commit minor or serious crimes; that would make best use out of expensive, secure detention and treatment; and that will allow us to finally meet our responsibilities toward families, victims, and communities. To allow these concerns to go unaddressed would be costly not only in financial terms but also in terms of risks to clients, staff, and communities.

A PLAN FOR CHANGE

The expectation of honest, forthright communication that has characterized the Division since its creation has served us well this past year. The ability to openly and regularly voice concerns and hopes — from both the line-staff level and among senior managers — has enabled us to progress relatively quickly from recognition of our challenges toward a plan of correction. By the close of FY 03 we had identified a strategy for improvement comprised of four main target areas:

1) Detention Reform

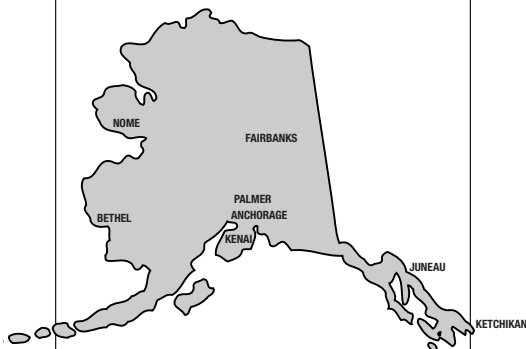
Secure detention is an entirely appropriate and necessary response to



This chart illustrates how Alaska's youth facilities operate close to or over capacity. Facilities with average daily populations exceeding their capacity surpass the 100% line. Bethel Youth Facility, Nome Youth Facility, and Anchorage's McLaughlin Youth Center routinely had populations that exceeded their capacity in FY 03. Note: only six of the 10 beds at the newly constructed Ketchikan Regional Youth Facility were completed and available to residents for the entire fiscal year.

Secure Detention

"Detention" traditionally refers to the secure holding of youths who have been charged with an offense and are awaiting a judgment on its outcome. In Alaska, detention facilities are located in the following communities:



youths who pose a danger to others or themselves or to ensure that alleged juvenile offenders appear in court. However, evidence suggests that many youths who are detained are not there because of a serious crime but rather are held for status offenses, failure to comply with supervision conditions, and other court-ordered violations that actually represent a low risk to community safety (see pie chart). Compelling research by the Annie E. Casey Foundation has demonstrated that many states over-use secure detention. The reliance on detention as the primary, if not sole, response for youths who pose varying levels of risk to community safety has not only resulted in overcrowding problems for jurisdictions across the country, but also has discouraged the development of alternative programs that can be just as effective as secure detention in preventing offending behavior — and considerably less expensive.²

In order to ensure appropriate use of this restrictive and costly resource, the Division is requiring more objective and data-driven decision making in its use of both secure detention and other facets of the juvenile system. This expectation will apply both at the initial detention admission stage for youths and throughout their stay in our detention facilities. Specifically:

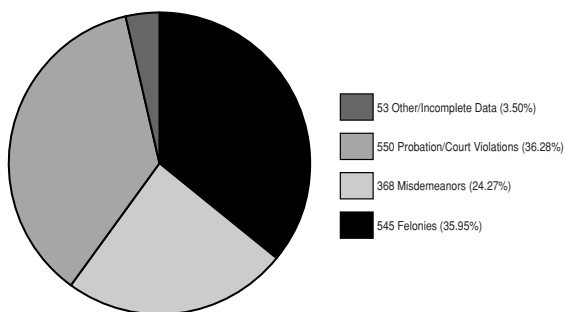
- The Division is implementing an objective Detention Assessment Instrument (DAI) to help guide juvenile probation officers in making decisions on the need for secure detention.
- The Division has developed a new policy that sets clear parameters on the length of stay in secure detention and expedites a juvenile's movement to more appropriate settings when indicated.
- The Division will increase non-secure alternatives for juveniles. These alternatives may include intensive probation supervision, electronic monitoring, community-based and in-home detention programs, foster care, residential care, and emergency shelters. Alternatives developed will vary by community, given differences in local needs and resources.

These efforts were well underway by early FY 04. Ultimately, our goal is for "detention" to be viewed not as a place but as a continuum of supervision that better targets a youth's needs and more appropriately responds to the risks posed to the community.

2) Treatment Maximization

As with detention, the Division has historically based its recommendation to the Court on whether a delinquent youth should be remanded for secure treatment on local, subjective factors, such as the frequency of serious crimes, discretion of staff, and availability of resources. From a statewide perspective this hasn't led to the most efficient use of the Division's secure treatment units, as some units have gone underutilized while others have contended with overcrowding and wait lists. More equitable distribution of resources, with savings in some areas reinvested in others, is critical

**Alaska Juvenile Detention Admissions
By Most Serious Charge Class, FY 2003**



² See *The Pathways to Juvenile Detention Reform* publication series, published by The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, 2002, or visit www.aecf.org.

to ensure a balanced continuum in the state's juvenile institutions. Toward that end:

- On August 1, 2003, the Division consolidated two 20-bed treatment cottages at McLaughlin Youth Center into one program to help ensure maximization of treatment bed space around the state. A new Transitional Services Unit at McLaughlin will help ensure that, even with the reduced bed space, management of youth will be improved through the addition of a range of transitional services previously unavailable in the service continuum.
- The Division instituted a new, statewide classification policy governing the use of institutional treatment beds to ensure that maximum utilization is being achieved.
- The Division is seeking to ensure appropriate length-of-stay for all existing treatment units in secure institutions to accommodate the overall bed reduction.
- The Division is increasing the capacity of facilities that currently provide detention services only to provide short-term transitional/re-entry services, through enhanced staff capabilities and community partnerships.
- The Division is standardizing treatment "core services" around the state to further ensure both efficient and effective use of treatment beds.
- The Division will adopt an evidence-based tool for assessing and re-assessing both the risks and needs posed by youth in the juvenile system.

The youths receiving treatment in the Division's facilities experience some of the most difficult and complex issues faced by Alaska's social service and justice systems. With these improvements Alaskans can be assured that these youths will be better prepared to return to their homes and communities as capable, productive citizens.

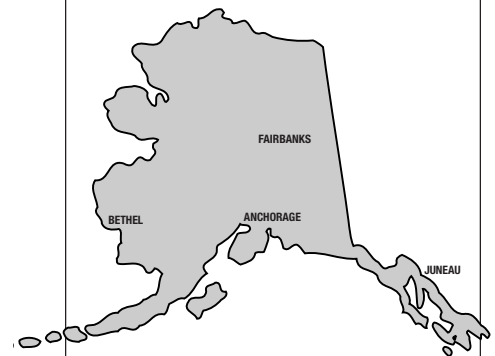
3) Probation Support

The success of detention alternatives and shortened treatment stays require the professional judgment and skills of Alaska's juvenile probation officers, who provide ongoing supervision and support to youths who have violated community norms and Alaska's laws. The systemic improvements described above will place heavier demands both on the already full workloads of Alaska's juvenile probation officers and on community agencies that work with the Division to prevent repeat criminal behavior. The Division intends to address this challenge by:

- Redirecting existing resources obtained from the improvements to our institutional components toward probation services and other community-based services.
- Supporting juvenile probation offices as they team with facility staff to re-program efforts and resources into the community.

Treatment Facilities

"Treatment" in the juvenile justice system refers to services for youth who have been sentenced to long-term confinement because of serious, violent and/or chronic delinquent behavior. In Alaska, treatment services are provided in:

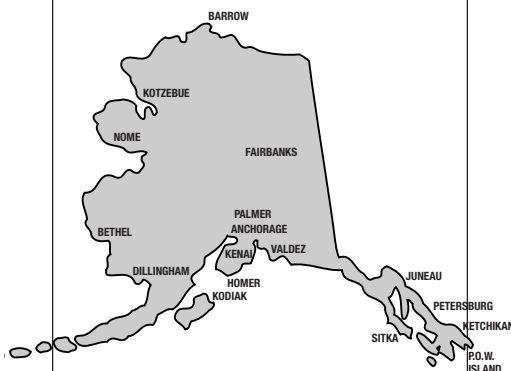


Juvenile Probation Services

Juvenile probation officers are the front-line caseworkers of the juvenile justice system. They are required to be available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to accept referrals from public safety officials following arrest of a youth. Juvenile probation officers:

- Determine the appropriate course of action so that each youth will meet the goals of balanced justice.
- Assist youth and families in working with the State's public safety, court and legal systems.
- Monitor youth offenders to ensure accountability and public safety.
- Seek to work with families, local agencies, and organizations to involve youthful offenders and keep them from offending again.

Alaska's juvenile probation officers work out of 17 offices located around the state. Some offices, such as Anchorage, are staffed by several officers; in other offices a single officer may cover a large area. The probation officer in Dillingham, for example, monitors and responds to juvenile crime for the dozens of communities in the Lower Kuskokwim Delta and Alaska Peninsula.



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- Implementing an effective graduated incentives and sanctions approach to working with juvenile offenders that provides meaningful rewards for positive behavior and significant disincentives for negative behaviors.
- Encouraging development and use of existing resources such as foster care, residential care, independent living funds, mentoring, and vocational and workforce development opportunities.
- Developing and implementing objective tools that can guide decisions probation officers must make at all points in the juvenile justice system, including tools for youths with mental health and other special needs.

Work on these activities was well underway in early FY 04. We expect that these improvements will increase our juvenile probation officers' ability to better respond to each youth's needs, ultimately leading to better outcomes for them, their families, victims and communities.

4) Communication and Inclusion

The Division of Juvenile Justice does not operate alone, but is one part of a much larger continuum of services for all young people in Alaska. Juvenile justice work involves routine contact with police, teachers, nurses, social workers, troopers, mental health clinicians, substance abuse counselors, nonprofit organizations, legislators, and many others. Effective collaboration with justice partners helps ensure that all of us maintain effective services. The efforts at reform described above also can be far more productive if we are able to share our concerns and challenges with others who have attempted similar reforms. Toward these ends, the Division has already begun seeking guidance and feedback from juvenile justice professionals in other states as well as nationally recognized experts in effective juvenile justice practices.

Foremost among these expert groups has been the National Juvenile Detention Association (NJDA), a national organization of juvenile justice professionals whose mission is to advance effective juvenile justice practices. With this assistance the Division convened a meeting of primary stakeholders in statewide juvenile justice in September 2003. For two days, representatives from the Alaska Court System, Attorney General's Office, Public Defenders' Office, Department of Public Safety, the Alaska Legislature, the Governor's Office, Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, local law enforcement, Department of Education, the Department of Health and Social Services and its Office of Children's Services and Division of Behavioral Health, and other stakeholders met to discuss the current situation in juvenile justice and to explore the benefits and challenges of system improvement. The meeting emphasized the existing strengths in Alaska's juvenile justice system as well as the continued need for joint decision-making and stakeholder participation in system changes. These representatives will continue to be apprised of and included in discussion of our reforms through regular correspondence and communication.

Ultimately, the results of these efforts at improvement will be most keenly felt at the local level, in the communities where Alaskans feel

the impact of safe communities and a juvenile justice system that holds offenders accountable while also ensuring that they are provided with sufficient skills to enable them to succeed. A survey of the activities of the past year and emerging goals and activities of the year ahead follows, with a breakdown of information at a regional level.

ANCHORAGE

The Division of Juvenile Justice serves Alaska's largest city through the Anchorage Juvenile Probation Office and McLaughlin Youth Center. The Anchorage Juvenile Probation Office accepts delinquency referrals from city and state law enforcement agencies and manages youth offenders through its Intake and Field Services Units. McLaughlin Youth Center is a detention and treatment facility serving youth from Anchorage and, when necessary, other areas of the state. The Anchorage Probation Office is housed at the McLaughlin Youth Center. Staff from Anchorage Probation and McLaughlin worked closely to provide services to Anchorage's juvenile offenders, their families, and others impacted by their crimes.

The **Anchorage Juvenile Probation Office** has instituted several changes this year in an effort to be more responsive to community needs. While in the past officers specialized in types of work, such as intake or field probation services, the office began cross-training officers in effectively managing cases throughout the justice continuum so they could focus on providing the entire range of services in specific geographic areas. This shift will enable more effective use of juvenile probation officers' time and enable them to become more familiar with the youths, families, schools, police officers, and neighborhoods they serve. The Anchorage office will retain specialized units in mental health to deal with offending youth that have complex and serious mental health needs, gender-specific probation to deal with the needs of girls, and in Aftercare to deal with youth who are being released from treatment at McLaughlin Youth Center.

McLaughlin Youth Center concluded the fiscal year preparing to consolidate two of its treatment cottages for boys into a single unit, for a net reduction of 20 treatment beds. These 20 treatment beds were reconfigured into a new Transitional Services Unit that will better prepare institutionalized youths for successful release into the community. This improvement, completed in August 2003, will result in more efficient and effective use of statewide institutional treatment beds.

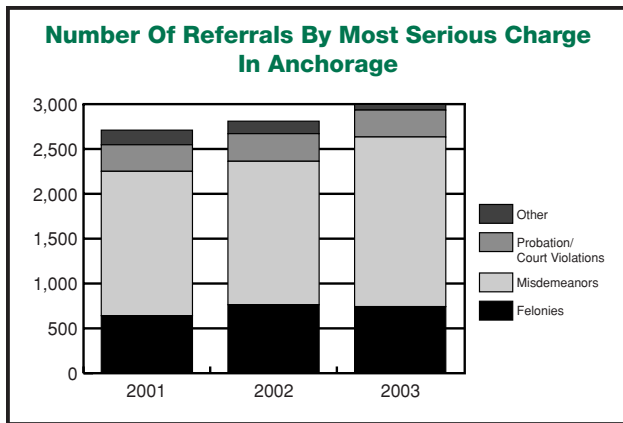
McLaughlin's Community Detention program also will play a critical role in the Division's systemic improvements in the coming year. Community Detention, a collaboration between probation and facility staff, provides alternatives to secure detention. Youths qualify for admission to Community Detention depending on the outcome of a screening process. Services provided include community supervision, a day program located at McLaughlin and the Boys and Girls Club Mountain View Recreation Center, and a school program for students who've dropped out or been expelled. The

Statewide and Local Citizen Involvement

One of the ways that DJJ ensures the participation of a wide spectrum of Alaskans in the juvenile justice process is through the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (AJJAC). This group, comprised of nonpartisan volunteers appointed by the governor, is mandated by the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to meet regularly and provide assistance and guidance to elected officials in meeting the federal core requirements. AJJAC also assists the Division of Juvenile Justice in allocating and distributing federal grant funds. In FY 03, the members of the AJJAC were:

Tom Begich, Chair
Sue Lovekin, Secretary
Jeff Budd
Bernard Gatewood
Virgie King
Joe Murdy
Leona Sondie
Barbara Tyndall
William Hitchcock
Tina Wilson
Seth Church
Abad Senquiz, Vice Chair
Vicki Blankenship
Joe Fitchett
Michael Jeffery
Ernie Mueller
Joe Pruitt
Tukta Souksi
Jaime Zellhuber
Christine Smith
Carol Brenckle
Barbara Learmouth, Staff

In addition to this statewide committee, each of DJJ's field offices seeks to involve citizens in dialogue about local needs and solutions to juvenile crime. Contact your local youth facility superintendent or juvenile probation officer for more information.



coming year will see the development of the Detour Program, a home confinement program for youths who do not meet the Division's new detention criteria.

SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

The Division manages juvenile offenses in the regions surrounding the greater Anchorage area through the Southcentral Probation Office. This area includes the Mat-Su Valley district, Kodiak Island, the Kenai Peninsula, the Alaska Peninsula, Prince William Sound area, Dillingham, the Aleutian Chain, and the Pribilof Islands. The Mat-Su Youth Facility in Palmer provides secure detention services

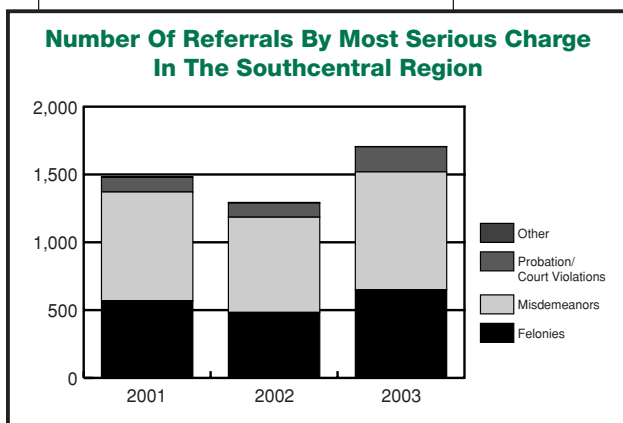
for youth from these communities, with support from the McLaughlin Youth Center in Anchorage. This year, construction was completed on a new detention facility in Kenai, which opened in December 2003. The Kenai Peninsula Youth Facility will provide secure detention for up to 10 youths from the area awaiting determination on the outcome related to their offenses.

The officers of the **Southcentral Region Juvenile Probation Office** are challenged in their ability to provide effective services to youth across such a huge geographic area. All of them rely closely on relationships with community partners — including youth courts, family and youth support agencies, substance abuse counseling services, and others — to assist them in supervising and providing skills and services to young offenders. The Mat-Su and Kenai District Probation Offices will be working closely with the staff of the youth facilities in their communities to improve aftercare programming for youth transitioning out of institutional treatment. The Kodiak District, whose single officer has one of the highest caseloads in the state, continued to work toward helping the community develop better facilities for temporary holds and foster homes for adjudicated youth.

The Dillingham District Office also is in need of more placement options for Division clients. The communities covered by this district are slated to be shared with an officer in the Mat-Su District Office in the coming year to better enable travel and improved services from the single officer stationed in Dillingham.

The **Mat-Su Youth Facility** will play an important role in the Division's overall efforts to improve the statewide juvenile justice system. The Division's goal of limiting secure detention to youth who pose a clear risk to the community and providing transition services for institutionalized youths will alter staffing patterns and duties significantly as the facility works to serve both of these

populations. As part of these improvements the facility will develop a transition program to better prepare youth leaving institutional treatment. Programming at the newly opened **Kenai Peninsula Youth Facility** will also reflect the improvements we seek to make in the continuum of services that youths receive.



NORTHERN ALASKA

The Division of Juvenile Justice manages juvenile delinquency referrals from Fairbanks, Bethel, Nome, Barrow, Kotzebue, and the many villages surrounding these communities through its Northern Region Probation Office. This region also is served by youth facilities in Fairbanks and Bethel that offer both secure detention and treatment services, and a facility in Nome providing detention services.

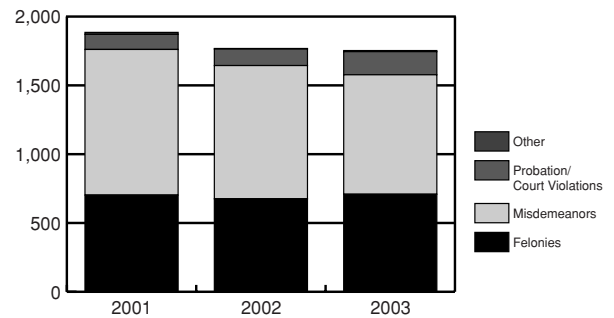
The **Northern Juvenile Probation Office** oversees an area of tremendous geographical distances and diverse communities, but its juvenile probation officers are working hard to coordinate and manage their services more efficiently and effectively. The officers of the Region have set goals to reduce the number of juveniles detained in youth facilities through proper use of the new Detention Assessment Instrument and the development of local alternatives to secure detention. The region is also committed to maximizing the use of federal funding and local community human services, and closely monitoring its budget for cost-saving opportunities. Probation Officers specializing in youth with mental health issues, those in foster care placements, and those who are transitioning back into their communities after a period of institutionalization will work to ensure that youth with these intensive needs receive the support that can help them succeed.

The **Fairbanks Youth Facility**, the second largest of Alaska's youth facilities, has devoted effort this past fiscal year to enhancing the ability of staff to work together effectively. Joint trainings, consultations, and community service projects have lent strength to this process. In the coming year, the facility will be monitoring its budget closely in conjunction with the other facilities of the Northern region and working with probation staff to improve the continuum of care and the success of transitions back to the community for youth referred to the facility for either detention or treatment. Construction of long-needed gymnasium and classroom space began at the close of the fiscal year and is anticipated to be ready for use by early 2004. This improvement will significantly enhance the ability of facility staff to insure the health and well-being of residents.

The **Bethel Youth Facility** revised its mission statement this past year to more accurately reflect the overall Division philosophy of restorative justice. The Facility staff are planning to conduct more community outreach and collaboration activities by recruiting additional members to the facility's community advisory board, and to identify new community service projects that can be completed by residents without off-site privileges. Facility staff also will be working closely with Bethel's district probation office to successfully reduce the facility's detention count through development of placement alternatives that meet the needs of youth without jeopardizing public safety.

Early results of our statewide detention reform efforts, and the facility's historic and continued severe overcrowding, indicate that the Bethel facility is significantly under-resourced in terms of personnel and capacity. While the use of an objective detention assessment tool has indicated that our other youth facilities may be able to better

**Number of Referrals By Most Serious Charge
In The Northern Region**





*Diane Climo,
Social Services Associate, Sitka*

control their populations through detention alternatives, Bethel Youth Facility continues to house a population of extremely serious offenders. The coming year will be heavily focused on possible solutions to Bethel Youth Facility's overcrowding, including the development of a range of intensive, community-based supports and services aimed at providing supervision and monitoring to youths while ensuring community protection.

Nome Youth Facility also typically operated at well over capacity this year. An expansion for this facility was approved by the 2003 Alaska State Legislature; when completed, this renovation will allow for better management of residents and allow the facility to improve its ability to manage youth who are "stepping down" from treatment elsewhere. Division staff in Nome intend to continue to maximize the participation of community partners in their work. The facility has set a goal by the end of the coming year to have an active citizens' advisory board in place that can assist staff in assuring program excellence and productive community collaboration.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA

The Division of Juvenile Justice manages juvenile offenses in Southeast Alaska through its Southeast Regional Probation Office based in Juneau and with district offices in Ketchikan, Juneau, and Sitka. Local offices also are located on Prince-of-Wales Island and in Petersburg. The region is served by youth facilities in Juneau and Ketchikan. Persistent overcrowding in the Detention Unit of Johnson Youth Center in Juneau was relieved this year in part by the opening of the Ketchikan Regional Youth Facility, which concluded its first full year of operation in FY 03.

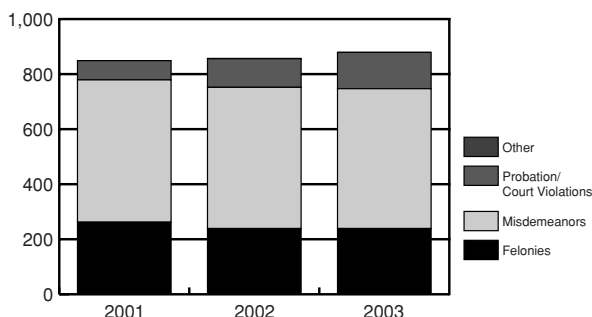
The officers of the **Southeast Region Juvenile Probation Office** have worked on maintaining positive working relationships with community partners such as law enforcement officers, courts, schools, Native entities, and other agencies. The loss of some programs provided by these partners, such as youth courts and electronic monitoring ser-

vices, has challenged the ability of probation officers to provide effective responses to certain crimes. The region's officers intend to implement a consistent training program for all their officers in the coming year and develop more alternatives to detention to limit overcrowding in the region's youth facilities. The region also has a goal of using federal funds to re-establish an aftercare probation officer position that can help ensure the effective case management of youth being released from institutional care to Southeast communities.

Juneau's **Johnson Youth Center** enhanced a number of services this past year, including those offered through

community partnerships with organizations such as the Juneau Mediation Center, Juneau Youth Services, Tlingit & Haida Central Council, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska. Goals for FY 04 are to work with the Juneau Probation Office to enhance transitions of youth out of institutional care, to engage parents of offenders more effectively in detention and treatment plans, and to effectively incorporate the Division's overall system changes at the local level.

**Number Of Referrals By Most Serious Charge
In The Southeast Region**



In FY 03 the **Ketchikan Regional Youth Facility** opened its Crisis Stabilization Unit, a non-secure, four-bed wing providing managed mental health services to stabilize local youth who are in emotional or behavioral crisis. This program operates alongside a secure, 6-bed detention unit that opened in late FY 02. While the secure detention unit has typically operated close to capacity this fiscal year, the Crisis Stabilization Unit was underutilized in its first year. A dialogue launched between community stakeholders and Division staff in late FY 03 resulted in a plan to improve utilization. To date, the changes made in early FY 04 seem to have improved utilization significantly and the Division plans to retain the services of this unit as they were originally intended.

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The Director's office of the Division of Juvenile Justice is located on the Seventh Floor of the Court Plaza Building in Juneau and in an administrative wing of the McLaughlin Youth Center in Anchorage. The office provides a range of services that support field probation offices, youth facilities, and community partners in the Division's efforts to reduce juvenile crime. These services include overall agency management including fiscal/budget development and oversight, policy development and implementation, legislative analysis, grant management, training coordination, research and information management and programmatic support to field probation and facility staff. The Director's office staff also ensures compliance with state and federal juvenile justice requirements and provides information and recommendations to a range of state and federal government partners, statewide private agencies and the Alaska Legislature and the Governor's office. (See Appendix A for DJJ's FY 03 performance measures.)

Several major projects have engaged the Director's Office staff the past year in addition to these duties. The Office worked closely with the Department of Health and Social Service's Human Resources section to begin a classification study of the more than 400 positions within the Division of Juvenile Justice, and cooperated with the Division of Legislative Audit in examining our practices and procedures. Results of both evaluations are expected in FY 04.

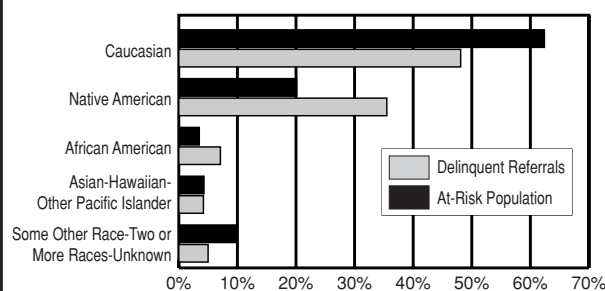
Program staff were challenged by a significant reduction in federal funding for community-based programs for FY 04 while managing the distribution of more than \$2 million in funds to community programs in FY 03 (see Appendix B for a list of the projects receiving support). The elimination and reduction of many of these programs in FY 04 has required State Office program staff to be particularly creative and resourceful in working with our field staff and community agencies to address local juvenile needs. Program staff also worked to continue to meet the mandates of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended, which requires that state juvenile justice agencies address systemic concerns such as juvenile holding procedures and the representation of minorities in our system.

The major focus of FY 04 for the Division Director's Office staff will be in assisting our field staff in effectively integrating our proposed

Disproportionate Minority Representation in the Alaska Juvenile Justice System

Among the unsettling statistics about juvenile delinquency in Alaska is the fact that minority groups, particularly African-Americans and Alaska Natives, are over-represented at several points in the juvenile justice system. The chart below demonstrates just one of these points, when youths are initially referred to the Division for law violations. States receiving funding from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention are required to investigate the causes of over-representation where it exists and to develop a plan of correction. The Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice has begun critically analyzing the points in our state where over-representation occurs and will be developing strategies to combat it in FY 04.

Racial Distribution of the Alaska Juvenile Population Compared to Juvenile Delinquency Referrals*



* DJJ delinquency data is from FY 02. General population data is provided by the Alaska Department of Labor.

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE
2003 ANNUAL REPORT**



*Rob Seward, Training Coordinator,
Director's Office, Juneau*

systemic improvements into their daily work. Program staff will seek to provide information and resources on effective, research-based practices. Research and analysis staff will work to enhance the ability of managers to manage information and report on outcomes of system changes, and administrative staff will work to ensure that component budgets are being managed as cost-effectively as possible. The Director's Office will provide leadership and guidance to ensure that the Division continues to work to make Alaska's juvenile justice system among the most effective in the nation.

CONCLUSION

Fiscal Year 2003 was a pivotal year for the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice. We identified a number of ongoing and emerging concerns that have inhibited our ability to provide juvenile justice services as mandated. We have determined the specific steps we must take to correct this situation, confident that the result will be a more responsive, effective, and restorative juvenile justice agency.

Our success in meeting our aims will largely rest on two factors: the dedication of our staff to this process, and the support of juvenile justice system partners and all Alaskans. The staff members of the Division of Juvenile Justice are an impressive collection of Alaskans, several of them having spent more than two decades working with the state's juvenile offenders. Perhaps the most remarkable characteristic of these employees is their recognition that their work must undergo constant evaluation and change if they are to witness better outcomes for the youths under their supervision and meet their potential as advocates for their communities. Nevertheless, the comprehensive changes underway at our Division will test every staff member's adaptability. Long-standing practices may be replaced by procedures that, while effective, may also be unfamiliar. The Division remains dedicated to open communication that will ensure that the benefits and costs of all changes have been carefully weighed and fully appreciated.

Success also depends on the willingness of all Alaskans to support these improvements. Members of the law enforcement, legal, justice, victims' advocacy, and education communities as well as the legislative and judicial branches of government have a significant and obvious stake in helping to build a more effective juvenile justice system. The Division is committed to working cooperatively with these groups to ensure a seamless integration of these changes into their work. The stake of other Alaskans—whether they have direct contact with the juvenile justice system or not—may be more subtle but is no less important, for ultimately it is in our homes, neighborhoods, and communities where the costs of juvenile crime and the rewards of successful changes are most directly felt. The Division invites all Alaskans that care about positive youth development to become involved as mentors for juvenile offenders, volunteers in our facilities, advocates for victims, or members of our local or statewide advisory boards. Share your ideas and concerns with your legislators, and share them with us. The Division of Juvenile Justice is determined to maintain the passion and commitment to excellence that have characterized the agency from its inception. It is our request and our necessity that you participate in this journey with us.

APPENDIX A: DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE FY 03 PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The Division of Juvenile Justice continues to work to meet the goals of performance-based budgeting as established by the 1998 Alaska Legislature. In FY 03 these measures were:

The percentage of ordered restitution paid by juvenile offenders. Success or failure in completing the restitution order is determined at case closure. The baseline measure is 79%, which was the percentage paid in the first quarter of FY 99. In FY 03, the statewide amount of restitution ordered was \$521,562.01 and the amount collected was \$457,858.22, or 88%.

The percentage of community work service paid by juvenile offenders. Success or failure in completing the community work service order is determined at case closure. The baseline measure is 83%. In FY 03, the statewide amount of community work service hours ordered was 28,308 and the amount performed by juvenile offenders was 27,551, or 97%.

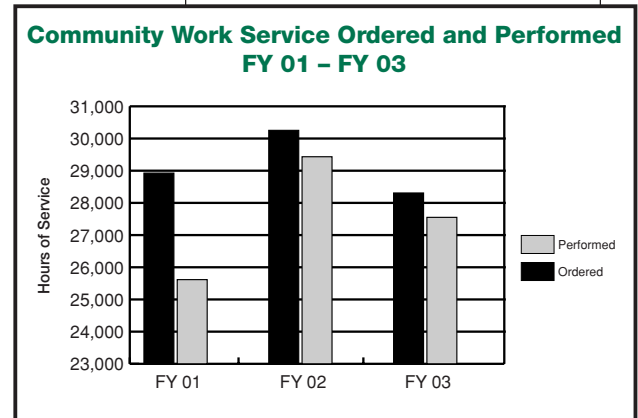
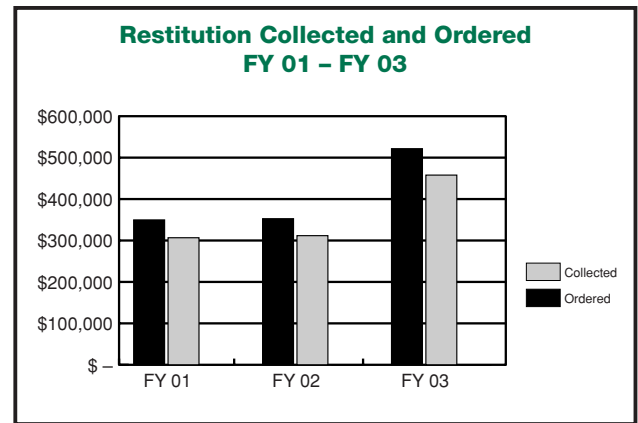
The number of escapes from institutions. The goal is for this number to be maintained or reduced as measured against historic patterns. The baseline measure, nine, is the average number of escapes per year between FY 95-FY 97. In FY 03, 9 residents escaped from Alaska youth facilities.

The percentage of juvenile offenders that re-offend. The Division examines this measure in two ways:

- **The percentage of juveniles who re-offend within a 24-month period following release from institutional treatment.** The table at right reports the re-offense rates for each youth facility providing treatment as well as the statewide total.

The target for the Division is to maintain or decrease recidivism from the statewide baseline, which was established at a re-offense rate of 65% in FY 2000 for all DJJ facilities. The baseline for individual youth facilities was established by averaging the historic recidivism data for each facility. McLaughlin Youth Center had more than 10 years of data available, but other facilities had less data and therefore comparisons should be viewed with caution. Additionally, there are wide variations from year to year in recidivism reports and overall trends are likely to be more significant than any one year of data.

- **The percentage change of juveniles who re-offend within a 24-month period following completion of formal court-ordered probation supervision.** The following table reports the number of children for whom court-ordered probation episodes remain closed during the fiscal year and subsequent referral to the Division for a law violation by a juvenile after the probation case was closed.



Institutional Re-Offense By Facility FY 03

Facility	Baseline	# Released	# Re-Offend	%
Bethel Youth Facility	70%	9	4	44%
Fairbanks Youth Facility	65%	17	12	71%
Johnson Youth Center (Juneau)	65%	17	5	29%
McLaughlin Youth Center	47%	97	45	46%
Total	65%	140	66	47%

Re-Offense After Probation

Year	# Juveniles	1 Yr. Reoffenses	% W/In 1 Yr.	% W/In 2 Yrs.	2 Yr. Reoffenses
1998	489	88	18%	24%	115
1999	532	105	20%	26%	136
2000	457	73	16%	22%	100
2001	441	81	18%	24%	104
2002	551	102	20%	N/A	N/A

(This excludes non-criminal referrals and referrals which were dismissed or screened and released. Also excluded are law violations committed after the juvenile turned 18 years old.)

These percentages should be interpreted with caution because they are based on small numbers, and data is uncontrolled for such factors as the age of the offender, levels of offenses, differences in intake screening procedures, and others.

The satisfaction of victims with the juvenile justice process. The data for this measure is still being developed.

In FY 03, the Division did not receive any complaints from the State Office of Victim's Rights. The Division intends to develop a protocol for determining overall victim satisfaction with the juvenile justice system.

The treatment of juvenile offenders while in the Division's custody. This measure is the number of reports of harm submitted to the Office of Children's Services on youth under the Division's care during FY 03. Fifteen such reports were made in FY 03 and related to incidents of abuse and neglect for all placements including placements in the youth's own home.

APPENDIX B: DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE GRANT PROGRAMS

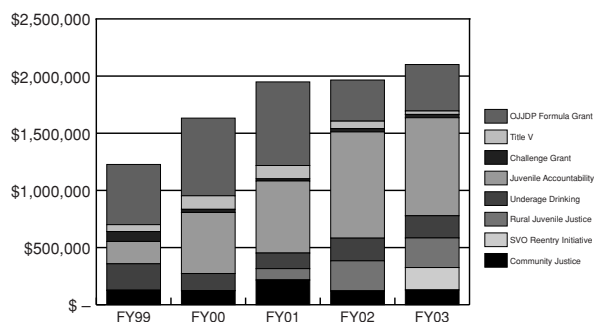
The Division administers several community-based grant programs in support of local delinquency intervention and prevention efforts. Without community-based alternatives to incarceration, there is a strong risk of becoming over-reliant on juvenile detention facilities, which lose their deterrent effect with overuse. Facility-based programming also is much more expensive than community-based alternatives. Development of non-secure alternatives to incarceration ultimately allows for a continuum of accountability services for juvenile offenders that holds them accountable for delinquent behavior, acknowledges the loss and needs of victims, and supports the best efforts of local communities to address their own delinquency intervention and prevention needs.

Over 95% of the funds available for community-based grants through the Division are from federal sources. While the Division's success in securing federal grant dollars to support local delinquency intervention efforts has increased over the last several years, it should be noted that

the more serious effects of funding cuts at the federal level will not become evident to most communities until FY 04.

Descriptions of each of the grants administered by the Division in FY 03 are provided as follows.

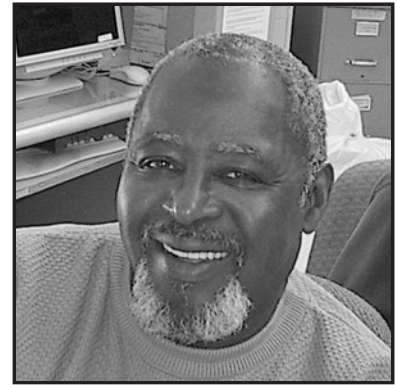
DJJ Community-Based Grant Awards FY 99 – FY 03



Formula Grants

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (JJDPA), as amended, contains four core mandates in the effort to improve juvenile justice systems nationwide, including: 1) sight and sound separation of incarcerated juveniles from adults; 2) removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups; 3) de-institutionalization of status offenders and non-offenders; and, 4) reducing disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system. Formula grant funds must first be used in the State's effort to remain in compliance with the JJDPA. Any remaining funds are used to support delinquency intervention and prevention efforts. In FY03, \$406,370 was made available for delinquency prevention grants under the Formula Grants Program. Efforts are sought that model research-based best and promising practices in the juvenile justice field. A portion of the Formula Grant is set aside at the federal level to support Alaska's citizen advisory group for juvenile justice, the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (AJJAC). The Formula Grants distributed in FY03 were:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Anchorage	Mentoring Youth in State Custody	\$20,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska	Mentoring Youth in State Custody	\$20,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska	School-based Mentoring	\$12,000
Boys and Girls Club of Southcentral	After-School Activities	\$30,000
Alaska Fairbanks Counseling and Adoption	Therapy for Abused Youth	\$29,218
Kids Are People Inc. (Mat-Su)	Family Mediation	\$29,505
Kodiak Youth Services Center	Intensive Family Support	\$30,000
Nome Community Center	Diversion Classes and Activities	\$19,287
Tundra Women's Coalition (Bethel)	Teens Acting Against Violence	\$29,990
City of Wrangell	Non-Secure Shelter	\$3,202
Fairbanks Native Association	Non-Secure Shelter	\$27,000
Juneau Youth Services	Non-Secure Shelter	\$15,000
Kenai Peninsula Community Care	Non-Secure Shelter	\$50,000
Care Center Kodiak Youth Services Center	Non-Secure Shelter	\$8,000
North Slope Borough	Non-Secure Shelter	\$5,000
Residential Youth Care (Ketchikan)	Non-Secure Shelter	\$23,000
Valdez Counseling Center	Non-Secure Shelter	\$6,000
Youth Advocates of Sitka	Non-Secure Shelter	\$12,000
Aleutian/Pribilof Island Association	DARE school program	\$3,679
Bristol Bay Native Association	VPSO Training	\$5,454



*Will Robinson, Youth Counselor,
McLaughlin Youth Center,
Anchorage*



*Virginia Vale,
Juvenile Probation Officer,
Dillingham*

Central Council of Tlingit and Haida	Youth court planning	\$4,540
Chugachmiut (Anchorage)	Youth Spirit Camp	\$3,470
Kawerak (Nome/Norton Sound)	Fine arts camp scholarships	\$6,864
Kodiak Area Native Association	Youth/Family Spirit Camp	\$3,600
Maniilaq Association (Arctic Slope)	Youth Court Training	\$5,976
Metlakatla Indian Community	Diversion Counseling	\$3,585

Title V Local Delinquency Prevention Grant

Under the JJDP, the Division receives the Title V Grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Title V grants require a significant local planning process that includes assembling community partners to discuss local delinquency intervention and prevention options and how these particular issues might be addressed in their community.

City of Sitka	Youth Court	\$30,000
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Challenge Activity Grant

The Division receives the Challenge Activity Grant from OJJDP. For FY03, \$29,000 was made available for programs offering alternatives to school suspension and expulsion. Historically, these funds have also been used to assist with institutional aftercare services as well as programs with gender specific programming for girls.

Anchorage YMCA	Alternatives to School Suspension and Expulsion	\$29,000
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Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG)

The Division receives grant monies through OJJDP to enhance juvenile accountability systems within the state. In FY03, \$857,037 was made available for community-based grants with projects that included youth and community justice panels, victim-offender mediation programs, community work service programs, and electronic monitoring.

Alaska Youth and Parent Foundation	Electronic Monitoring	\$157,500
Anchorage Youth Court	Youth Court	\$25,345
City of Wasilla-Mat-Su Youth Court	Youth Court	\$27,000
Delta Youth Court	Youth Court	\$8,000
Fairbanks Native Association	Electronic Monitoring	\$61,838
Juneau Community Mediation Center	Victim-Offender Mediation	\$27,000
Juneau School District	Youth Court	\$24,092
Juneau Youth Services	Community Work Service	\$27,000

Kenai Peninsula Youth Court	Youth Court	\$27,000
Kids Are People, Inc.	Electronic Monitoring	\$58,500
Kodiak Teen Court	Youth Court	\$27,000
Native Village of Emmonak	Elder's Panel	\$27,000
Nome Community Center	Nome Youth Court	\$27,000
North Slope Borough	Community Panel	\$26,100
North Star Youth Court	Youth Court	\$25,200
North Star Youth Court	Victim-Offender Mediation	\$27,000
Residential Youth Care	Electronic Monitoring	\$27,000
Sitka Prevention & Treatment Services	Sitka Youth Court	\$17,000
Southeast Regional Resource Center	Ketchikan Youth Court	\$26,964
United Youth Courts of Alaska	Youth Courts	\$40,498
Valdez Youth Court	Youth Court	\$27,000
Victims for Justice	Victim Advocate	\$27,000
Volunteers of America	Volunteers in Probation	\$27,000
Volunteers of America	Victim-Offender Mediation	\$35,000
Volunteers of America	Youth Restitution Program	\$27,000

Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program Grant (EUDL)

The Division receives \$360,000 per year through OJJDP for law enforcement, prevention, and intervention efforts related to underage drinking. In FY03, \$194,184 was made available for community-based prevention, intervention, and case management programs, including \$64,248 granted for the development of a youth-led statewide alcohol initiative. In FY03, \$100,000 was used by Alcohol Beverage Control Board Investigators to work with local law enforcement in conducting compliance checks of local alcohol vendors.

Bethel Group Home for District Court	MCA Case Management	\$30,000
Choices for Teens	Restorative Justice	\$10,000
Juneau Youth Services for District Court	MCA Case Management	\$30,000
Kodiak Youth Services Center for District Court	MCA Case Management	\$9,936
MADD Anchorage	Youth In Action	\$34,124
MADD Juneau	Youth In Action	\$34,124
Nome Community Center for District Court	MCA Case Management	\$10,000
Volunteers of America for District Court	MCA Case Management	\$40,000



*Eric Kuntz,
Juvenile Probation Officer,
Fairbanks*



*Dao Tran, Administrative Clerk,
Johnson Youth Center,
Juneau*

Rural Alaska Juvenile Justice Program (RJJP)

In 1999, DJJ received a federal grant for \$1,300,000 for developing Rural Alaska Collaboration projects. The project involves hiring Community Juvenile Justice Associates (CJJA) through non-profit agencies, units of local government, or tribal entities to assist in the supervision of delinquent or pre-delinquent youth in rural communities. Under this project, a rural community is defined as having a population under 6,500, not located in the same community as a Division of Juvenile Justice Field office, or located within (50) fifty miles of a Division Field Office by road. The Division supports these local efforts through intense training and technical assistance designed to equip the CJJAs and their communities to address delinquency issues locally. Funding for these projects first became available in January 2001 with \$258,998 awarded to these projects in FY03.

Emmonak Tribal Council	Community Justice Associate	\$68,000
Louden Tribal Council	Community Justice Associate	\$59,998
Noorvik Native Community	Community Justice Associate	\$71,000
Organized Village of Kake	Community Justice Associate	\$60,000

Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative

In FY 03 the Division received a three-year federal grant of \$593,000 to improve its management of serious and violent juvenile offenders who are re-entering their communities following long-term confinement. Some of these funds are being used to enhance the Division's aftercare capacity statewide, and a portion to develop and support a Functional Family Therapy program in Anchorage. Functional Family Therapy is an intensive behavioral family therapy that has been shown through rigorous research to be highly effective in preventing youth from re-offending.

Alaska Children's Services	Functional Family Therapy	\$195,688
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Community Juvenile Justice Program (CJJP)

This program provided seed money for community-based, collaborative efforts to prevent or intervene in juvenile delinquency. Grant projects were to be based on needs identified in the Governor's Conference on Youth and Justice meeting process, an interdepartmental and community effort that addressed youth and justice needs and developed recommendations to meet these needs. Grants were for a maximum of \$10,000 and applicants must demonstrate a 150% match of cash or in-kind services. In FY03, \$129,698 was awarded to the following organizations:

Alaska Youth & Parent	Anti-Shopping Classes	\$8,525
Anchorage Youth Court	Pre-Court Program	\$9,934
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska	School-based Mentoring	\$10,000
Boys and Girls Clubs of Southcentral Alaska	Elim Smart Moves/Peer-Led Drug & Alcohol Prevention	\$9,852

Boys and Girls Clubs of Southcentral Alaska	Delinquency Prevention	\$4,500
Bridges Community Resources Network, Inc.	Youth Violence Prevention Program	\$8,516
Choices for Teens, Inc.	Peer Mentoring	\$9,698
City of Hoonah	Summer Sport Outdoor Camp/Prevention	\$10,000
Kenai Peninsula Youth Court	Youth Court/Dispute Resolution Training	\$4,754
Kodiak Teen Court	Youth Court	\$5,410
United Youth Courts of Alaska	Youth Court Data Collection	\$9,967
United Youth Courts of Alaska	New Youth Court Training and Technical Assistance	\$8,525
Volunteers of America Alaska	Restitution Center	\$10,000
Volunteers of America Alaska	Victim-Offender Mediation	\$10,000
Wrangell Police Department	Youth Police Academy	\$9,880

Further Information about Division of Juvenile Justice Grants

More information about Division grants, including agencies and entities receiving grants, amounts, funding sources, and locations can be found at the Department of Health & Social Services Grants web site: <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/das/grants/>.



*Bernard Gatewood,
Superintendent,
Fairbanks Youth Facility*



*Tom Narvaez,
Administrative Assistant,
Director's Office*

This publication was produced by the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Juvenile Justice, at a cost of \$3.49 per copy, to inform Alaskans about their juvenile justice system. This report was printed in Anchorage. The photographs of the youth on the cover and page ii are of a non-delinquent youth and used with permission.



ON THE FRONTLINES OF JUVENILE JUSTICE: Juvenile Probation Officer Terry Hindman

After more than 19 years working on the front lines of juvenile delinquency and child protection all over Alaska, there aren't many things that can surprise Terry Hindman anymore. But a 15-year-old boy from a village outside Bethel showed this juvenile probation officer not just once but twice how unexpected life can be for both Division of Juvenile Justice employees and the clients they serve.

The first time was when Walter (not his real name) arrived at the Bethel Youth Facility after exhausting a number of opportunities to correct his law-breaking behavior in his home community. Walter had a history of minor offenses dating back to August 2001 that were managed informally because the small staff of the Bethel juvenile probation office had to devote their limited resources to more serious cases. Then, on a single frenzied day in January 2002, he committed a range of serious crimes that prompted a petition to court and a sentence of formal probation supervision. A few months after that Walter committed an assault in his village, resulting in detention at the Bethel Youth Facility.

"I could tell right away there was something not quite right going on when he arrived," Officer Hindman recalled. Even though the boy and his mother insisted he had no health problems, the boy walked with a limp and demonstrated signs of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and substance abuse. Still, Officer Hindman was shocked to learn that, when Walter changed into his facility clothes, the detention staff discovered that his legs were covered from hip to foot with wide, festering impetigo sores. Later, staff at the Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Hospital would tell Ms. Hindman that if he'd remained untreated much longer he probably would have lost a leg and quite possibly his life.

Staff of the Bethel Juvenile Probation office and the Bethel Youth Facility rotated a security watch for the boy while he recovered at the hospital over the next two weeks. By this time Walter had revealed a history of inhalant abuse. Officer Hindman arranged for him to enroll at the Tundra Swan Inhalant Treatment Program at the McCann Treatment Center in Bethel, a residential program where the boy could attend school and complete the 14-week treatment program.

"It was slow going at first," Officer Hindman recalled. "His attitude was poor. He was obstinate and frustrated and said we were all asking more of him than he was capable of. Once we recognized his needs he was able to keep up with the program and feel successful-probably for the first time in his life." Officer Hindman said she assured the staff at McCann that she was prepared to remove the boy from the Center if he'd ever threatened someone, but that was never necessary.

Walter was released to his home village in the fall of 2003. Even though his term of probation has ended he still checks in with Officer Hindman occasionally to say hello and report how he's doing. He's remained in school and intends to sign up for a work-service program in his village this summer. "I've seen lots of kids with multiple needs before," said Officer Hindman, who spent several years as a social worker and probation officer in Southeast Alaska before moving to Bethel in 2000. "What was remarkable about this boy was that, even though he came from an exceptionally bad place he's done exceptionally well."

Walter's case reminds Officer Hindman why she has worked so long in such a difficult field. "I like working with kids because, if we can do just a little something for them now, we ultimately can have a big impact later."



*Terry Hindman,
Juvenile Probation Officer,
Bethel*

